

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled previously pending claim 1 and have added new claims 2 through 19 to more clearly define the present invention. New independent claim 2 now recites, inter alia, that the route defined by the client request is broken after the request is accepted and processed. By so doing, the method of the present invention may determine a second (optimal) route by which the request is fulfilled in accordance with at least one rule set and the processing of the request. New independent claim 11 is an apparatus claim that parallels the method of claim 2.

Previously pending claim 1 was rejected under § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,370,584 to Bestavros et al. As noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, Bestavros et al. teach at column 3 using "predetermined criteria" for determining whether to service or reroute a request. Column 3, lines 21-23. Examples given for the predetermined criteria include computing a hash value based on source and destination addresses associated with the request (column 3, lines 23-35) or the use of a state table (column 3, lines 36-54).

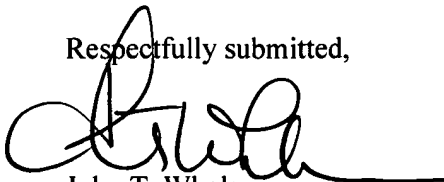
Bestavros et al., however, fail to disclose or suggest breaking the route defined by the client request after the request is accepted and processed, as now expressly recited in all pending claims. By offering this fundamental difference over conventional technologies, the present invention has the ability to discard all predefined routes and calculate the best route for that particular client.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that new pending claims 2-19 distinguish over Bestavros et al. and the other known art and thus define patentable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection, together with an indication of allowability of all pending claims, are thus earnestly solicited.

In re: Gregory M. McGregor et al.
Application No.: 09/991,899
Filed: November 23, 2001
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If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

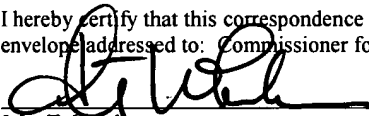


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 23, 2005.



John T. Whelan

Date of Signature: June 23, 2005